

St. Francis Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes January 2008

Attendees: Bill Burger, Dianne Boyle, Steve Cunniff, Mario Doria-Medina, Bob Doyle, John Grindstaff, Sr. Kathleen, Ron Naumann, Fr. Michael Oenbrink, Maureen Schaerfl, Maria Elena Salazar, Brad Simpson, and Audrey Mc Govern (after the Women of St. Francis meeting)

Also Attending: Fr. John Paul Reddy Pentareddy, Paula Storey

The meeting was opened at 7:04 PM with a prayer led by Fr. Mike

- 1) The minutes from the Nov. 26, 2007 meeting were approved.

- 2) Prayer for Engaged Couples Ministry Proposal – Paula Storey presented a request to start a ministry of Prayer for Engaged Couples. Couples preparing for marriage would be prayed for by specific member(s) of the parish. A notice will be placed in the Church Bulletin for parishioners wanting to participate. It was suggested that the Small Church Groups would be an excellent source of sponsors. The proposal was approved pending interest in the parish and following Ministry application procedures outlined on the web.

- 3) Sr. Kathleen Report
 - a) RCIA – Holy Family will share classes when appropriate. Booklets distributed at Christmas “Why become a Catholic” will also be distributed on other occasions (e.g. beginning of Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter).
 - b) Poetry Reading facilitated by Bob Hamel is being received very well. It also includes a poetry contest in the school (3 winners receiving awards). It was suggested that this could be considered a Ministry. Sr. Kathleen will follow up with Bob Hamel.

- 4) Old Business
 - a. Sponsorship of the Latin American Council of the Low Country was again discussed relative to what sponsorship actually means. Fr. Mike had requested a financial statement and a description of their activities, which was still not available. Mario indicated that he will follow up on the request with Luis Bell, Steve Cunniff will also contact Sandy Grant from All Saints Episcopal Church, which is a sponsor to gain additional information on sponsorship responsibilities. One potentially troubling aspect is the Latin American Council’s day labor program which may involve placement of illegal workers. We will discuss this issue at a future meeting when more facts are available.

- b. The subject of a Spanish-speaking priest to replace Fr. Cruz was also discussed. Fr. Mike indicated that he was working on the problem and there was a potential that a retired priest might become available. Bob Doyle suggested that we develop a strategic plan for integrating the Anglo and Hispanic communities. Mario suggested that Fr. Mike be more visible in the Hispanic activities/community. (note: Audrey McGovern had indicated in a note that the Women of St. Francis had provided food to the lady of Guadalupe celebration and members of the Hispanic community were participating as part of the January Women of St. Francis meeting program).
- c. Bob Doyle gave a status report on the Capital Campaign program
- d. Nominating Committee – we have received one request/resume from a person interested in being considered for the Parish Council. The Committee (Ron, Audrey, Bill) will meet to develop A strategy and action plan

5) New Business

- a) Special Event participation – we discussed ways of increasing parishioner participation in special events. More active leadership from the Parish Council and the Ministry leaders and possibly a phone committee was suggested as well as better advertising.
- b) Bob Doyle requested that information packages for new parishioners be more accessible in the Church. I discussed with Cheryl and she indicated that new parishioner forms were readily available and she is very responsive in sending out full packages when she gets a request. Per Bob's request, it was verified that the Ministry leaders were the contacts for the Communications Committee.
- c) Fr. Mike gave us an overview of the St. Francis School operations and funding long-range plan. Bottom line is that the school is financially viable and is vital to the success of the parish mission.
- d) It was noted that Nina McCunniff has been selected by the Woman of St. Francis for nomination as Catholic Woman of the Year for the Low Country Deanery

The meeting was ended at 8:56 PM with a closing prayer led by Sr. Kathleen.

The next meeting of the PPC will be on Feb. 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM
(note that due to Holy Week, the March meeting will be on March 31)

Bill Burger
Recorder